(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would consider fixing the targets?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) In terrestrial mode, TV coverage is estimated to be available to about 91% population of the country. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, TV coverage through terrestrial mode is nearly 98% of its population. However, multi channel TV coverage to *hitherto* uncovered areas through Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH service "DD Direct Plus" has been provided to the entire country (except A&N Islands). It is possible to receive DTH signals anywhere in the country with the help of a small sized dish receive units.

Setting up of FM Radio Channels in Karnataka

1430. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to set up FM radio channels in all districts in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): All India Radio has no plan to set up FM radio transmitters district-wise, as the coverage from a transmitter may also extend to adjoining areas. However, 14 FM radio transmitters are functioning in various districts of Karnataka. The coverage by FM in the state of Karnataka is 25.63% by area and 36.36% by population, which is higher than the National average of 23.79% by area and 34.52% by population. Moreover, under Phase II of the private FM broadcasting policy, there have been fourteen successful bidders for the operation of private FM channels in four districts of Karnataka State.

Functioning of AIR/DD Kendras in Andhra Pradesh

1431. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of AIR/DD Kendras functioning in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any proposal for digitalization of these Kendras is under consideration of Government;

(c) if so, the steps taken and by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) the amount sanctioned by Government for this purpose?